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EXAMINER

WEST, THOMAS C

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/769,117	Applicant(s) FURLONG ET AL.	
	Examiner THOMAS WEST	Art Unit 3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10-26-10.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 13-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 13-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 26, 2010 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-6, 13-27 are currently pending and have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-6, 13-26 are rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Vance, U.S. Patent No. 6,442,526.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 27:

Vance, as shown, discloses the following limitations:

receiving a selection of an activity item (new trip icon button 362),
wherein the activity item is one of a plurality of activity items, and (see

new trip icon button 362, see at least col. 11, lines 41-67, col. 12, lines 1-5, figs. 14A-14N)

each one of the plurality of activity items represents a type of business related activity; (col. 12, lines 35-53, figs. 14A-14N, figs. 15A-15G top menu bar)

in response to the selection, automatically associating an expense item (car rental) with the activity item (new trip button), wherein there are one or more expense items that are expensable for each activity item of the plurality of activity items, at least one expense item of the one or more expense items cannot be associated with one or more of the plurality of activity items, and (fig. 12A, item 450, col. 12, lines 54-67, fig K, policy col. 11, lines 14-40 trip violations, fig. 14B airline, car rental, Holiday In).

each activity item of the plurality of activity items is associated with one of a plurality of expense items; (fig. 14B airline, car rental, Holiday In)

receiving an activation signal for generating an expense report; (fig. 12A, item 450, col. 12, lines 54-67) and

in response to the activation creating, using a computer processor, the expense report, adding expense items associated with the activity item to the expense report, and submitting the expense report (col. 13, lines 36-46)

3 receiving a selection of an activity item, wherein the activity item is one of a plurality of activity items, and each one of the plurality of activity items represents a type of business related activity; (see new trip icon button 362, see at least col. 11, lines 41-67, col. 12, lines 1-5, figs. 14A-14N, col. 12, lines 35-53, figs. 14A-14N, figs. 15A-15G top menu bar)

in response to the selection, automatically associating an expense item with the activity item, wherein there are one or more expense items that are expensable for each activity item of the plurality of activity items, at least one expense item of the one or more expense items cannot be associated with one or more of the plurality of activity items, (fig. 14S Sabre Travel Planner, top menu bar – expense airline rental car, hotel, fig K, policy col. 11, lines 14-40 trip violations) and

each activity item of the plurality of activity items is associated with one of a plurality of expense items; (fig. 14B airline, car rental, Holiday In)

in response to receiving an activation signal for generating an expense report creating a new report, adding expense items associated with the activity item to the expense report, and submitting the expense report (fig. 14S, 14U)

5 a first subsystem configured to receive a selection of an activity item, wherein the activity item is one of a plurality of activity items, and each one of the plurality of activity items represents a type of business related activity; (see new trip icon button 362, see at least col. 11, lines 41-67, col. 12, lines 1-5, figs. 14A-14N)

a second subsystem configured to automatically associate an expense item with the activity item, (fig. 14S Sabre Travel Planner, top menu bar – expense airline rental car, hotel, fig K, policy col. 11, lines 14-40 trip violations)

wherein there are one or more expense items that are expendable for each activity item of the plurality of activity items, at least one expense item of the one or more expense items cannot be associated with one or more of the plurality of activity items, and each activity item of the plurality of activity items is associated with one of a plurality of expense items; (fig K, policy col. 11, lines 14-40 trip violations)

a third subsystem configured to receive an activation signal for generating expense report: and (fig. 14S, 14U)

a fourth subsystem configured to creating the expense report, in response to receiving the activation signal, wherein the creating the expense report comprises adding expense items associated with the

activity item to the expense report and (fig. 14S Sabre Travel Planner, top menu bar – expense airline rental car, hotel)

a fifth subsystem configured to submit the expense report (fig. 14S, 14U)

27 receiving- information from a user; (see new trip icon button 362, see at least col. 11, lines 41-67, col. 12, lines 1-5, figs. 14A-14N)

in response to the receiving the information, creating each of the plurality of activity types, wherein the creation of the plurality of activity types is based on the information creating each of the plurality of expense types, wherein the creating the each of the plurality of expense types is based on the information, (col. 12, lines 35-53, figs. 14A-14N, figs. 15A-15G top menu bar) and

determining the pre-determined mapping, wherein the determining is based on the information, and (fig. 12A, item 450, col. 12, lines 54-67)

the pre-determined mapping associates each of the plurality of expense types with at least one of the plurality of activity types; (fig. 12A, item 450, col. 12, lines 54-67, fig. 14B airline, car rental, Holiday In)

in response to the receiving, storing the information, wherein the storing is performed before the displaying, the information indicates whether one of the plurality of activity types is expensable, the

information comprises a plurality of keys, each of the plurality of keys is assigned to one of the plurality of expense types, and (fig. 12A, item 450, col. 12, lines 54-67, fig K, policy col. 11, lines 14-40 trip violations, fig. 14B airline, car rental, Holiday In).

at least one of the plurality of activity types, a one of the plurality of activity types represents a type of meeting, the first one of the plurality of activity types is associated with an instance of the first one of the plurality of activity types, and (fig. 15B)

the instance is a specific meeting. (fig. 15B)

Claims 2:

Vance, as shown, discloses the following limitations:

prior to receiving the selection of an activity item establishing activity types, expense types, and associations between the activity types and expense types, (fig. 14F, top menu bar established activity types) wherein the establishing comprises associating one or more expense types of the expense types with an activity type, and the associating is based on receiving selection indicating an expense type is associated with an activity type, (fig. 12A, item 450, col. 12, lines 54-67, fig. 14B airline, car rental, Holiday In).

instantiating an activity type of the activity types causes the creation of an activity item, and , (fig. 12A, item 450, col. 12, lines 54-67, fig. 14B airline, car rental, Holiday In).

instantiating an expense type of the expense types causes the creation of an expense item , (fig. 12A, item 450, col. 12, lines 54-67, fig. 14B airline, car rental, Holiday In).

Claims 4, 6:

Vance, as shown, discloses the following limitations:

establishing for the activity item a date designated for the activity item
(see column 8, lines 66-67, column 9, lines 1-10)

establishing for the expense item the same date designated for the
activity item (see column 8, lines 66-67, column 9, lines 1-10)

Claims 13, 18, 19, 23:

The method of claim 1, providing a user with a list of plurality of activity types
(see top menu bar including: trip activity log, figures 14A-S, 14U-X and 15A-G, expense report log, figure 16H, hotel item detail, figure 16E, meals detail, figure 16F, business entertainment, figure 14Q, bargain finder, figure 14Q, col. 11, lines 41-59).

providing a user with a list of the plurality of activity items figure 16H, hotel item

detail, figure 16E, meals detail, figure 16F, business entertainment, figure 14Q, bargain finder, figure 14Q, col. 11, lines 41-59).

the list of the plurality of activity items is predefined by an application administrator (co. 6, lines 35-58)

Claim 14:

The method of claim 13, wherein the list of the plurality of activity types is maintained by the user and contains activity item types predefined by an application administrator (see top menu bar including: trip activity log, figures 14A-S, 14U-X and 15A-G, expense report log, figure 16H, hotel item detail, figure 16E, meals detail, figure 16F, business entertainment, figure 14Q, bargain finder, figure 14Q, col. 11, lines 41-59).

Claim 15:

The method of claim 1, wherein the associations between each of the one or more expense items and the plurality of activity items are based on a predetermined mapping (see column 8, lines 66-67, column 9, lines 1-10)

Claim 16:

The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of activity items corresponds to one of a category of expenses, wherein the category of is one of the following categories:

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appointments, meetings, presentations, trips, travel, demonstrations, and drafting correspondence (see top menu bar including: trip activity log, figures 14A-S, 14U-X and 15A-G, expense report log, figure 16H, hotel item detail, figure 16E, meals detail, figure 16F, business entertainment, figure 14Q, bargain finder, figure 14Q, col. 11, lines 41-59).

Claims 17, 22, 26:

The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality activity items are based on information corresponding to at least one of a description of an activity, itemized tasks associated with the plurality of activity items, whether the activity item types are associated with a client, and whether the activity item items is expensable (see column 2, lines 55-60, col. 11, lines 41-59, col. 11, lines 41-59).

Claim 20:

The computer readable storage medium of claim 3, wherein the pre-determined mapping is based on expenses appropriate for the expense item (see top menu bar including: trip activity log, figures 14A-S, 14U-X and 15A-G, expense report log, figure 16H, hotel item detail, figure 16E, meals detail, figure 16F, business entertainment, figure 14Q, bargain finder, figure 14Q, col. 8. lines 66-67 and col. 9, lines 1-10, fig K, policy col. 11, lines 14-40 trip violations).

Claim 21, 25:

The computer readable storage medium of claim 3, wherein each of the plurality of activity items corresponds to a category of expenses, wherein, the the ctagory is one of the following: appointments, meetings, presentations, travel, demonstrations, and drafting correspondence (see top menu bar including: trip activity log, figures 14A-S, 14U-X and 15A-G, expense report log, figure 16H, hotel item detail, figure 16E, meals detail, figure 16F, business entertainment, figure 14Q, bargain finder, figure 14Q).

Claim 24:

The computing system of claim 23, wherein the list of activity items is predefined by an application administrator (see top menu bar including: trip activity log, figures 14A-S, 14U-X and 15A-G, expense report log, figure 16H, hotel item detail, figure 16E, meals detail, figure 16F, business entertainment, figure 14Q, bargain finder, figure 14Q).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 13-26 have been considered but are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Vance does not disclose items that cannot be associated with some of activity items. Vance teaches, "The department trip violations process 340 imports data from the department trip exception summary table

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342, the travel policy table 98, and the city/airport codes table 204. The department trip policy violations process 340 creates a summary for a given time period of department trip violations by category and reports trends in department trip violations. The department expense policy violations process 344 uses data from the city/airport codes table 204, the exception codes table 158, the expense category table 168, the average costs table 284, the expense policy table 174, the department expense exception summary table 348, the company expense exception summary table 350, and the department table 320. The department expense policy violations process 344 creates a summary for a given time period of departmental expense policy violations by category and trends in departmental expense policy violations.” (fig K, policy col. 11, lines 14-40 trip violations.) Vance discloses a plurality of activity items in at least (col. 12, lines 35-53, figs. 14A-14N, figs. 15A-15G top menu bar). Applicant argues that no activity types are selected from a plurality of types. Vance discloses an activity item, new trip icon button 362, col. 11, lines 41-59 and the plurality of activity types, figures 15A-G, top menu bar. The two distinct actions are first the selection of the activity item, new trip button, and second the car rental button 390, fig. 14K, col. 11, lines 41-67, col. 12, lines 1-5, figs. 14A-14N. Applicant argues that Vance does not disclose activation of the second button, creating an expense report. Vance discloses a new expense report fig. 16A, item 450, col. 12, lines 54-67. The predetermined mapping of the instant application described in the specification is an activity item automatically associated with a particular expense type, is shown in Vance column 9, lines 1-10 autofill.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas West whose telephone number is 571-270-1236. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday and Wednesday 7:30am - 5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer can be reached on 571-272-6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thomas West
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3621

/EVENS J. AUGUSTIN/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3621